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LETTER DATED 17 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

It is out of deep concern that I am compelled to inform you of the latest round of military developments that have taken place surrounding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. What is most disturbing about these latest developments is that Azerbaijan has spread its scope of military activity by violating the State border of Armenia in directing several attacks towards frontier villages that are on the Armenian side. Clearly, these are attempts to draw Armenia into the armed confrontation.

The details of the latest military escalation according to information received by the Mission of Armenia from Armenia's Foreign Ministry on 17 April 1993 are as follows:

Starting on the evening of 31 March, Azerbaijani forces mounted a massive military offensive. Heavy bombardment and rocket shelling coming from Fizuli into the Hadrut region of Nagorno-Karabakh left extensive human casualties and material destruction in the regional centre of Hadrut. The nearby village of Dudukchi was also affected by this assault. During the night of 30-31 March, heavy artillery shelling took place in the Taush, Krasnoselsk and Ijevan regions of the Republic of Armenia.

During the night of 1 April, the Shekher and Karmir Shuka villages of the Martakert region and the Dudukchi and Edilu villages of the Hadrut region of Nagorno-Karabakh were subjected to continuous rocket and artillery fire.

From 2 through 4 April, Armenian border areas as well as the eastern borders of the Martakert, Martuni and Hadrut regions of Nagorno-Karabakh were subjected to heavy artillery shelling.

On 5 April, detachments of the Azerbaijani army, in violation of the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh, staged a major assault in the direction of Togh village in the region of Hadrut. Heavy rocket and artillery bombing was being carried out in two separate theatres· from the south into the regional centre of Hadrut and the village of Edilu, as well as from the north towards the direction of Nerkin Horatagh in the Martakert region. On that same day, at 1630 hours, an Azerbaijani jet fighter dropped cassette bombs over the regional centre of Martuni, inflicting heavy casualties. At the same time, attacks and

shelling from the south onto the Lachin humanitarian corridor continued to disrupt the function of the corridor.

Through spreading misinformation to the effect that the Nagorno-Karabkah detachments are attempting to seize Fizuli, Azerbaijan wishes to cover up its policy of aggressive actions aimed at solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by the use of force. The Chief of Staff of the Nagorno-Karabakh Self-Defence Forces, Serge Sargsian, has categorically denied these allegations by Azerbaijan.

On the night of 6 April, the regions of Taush, Ijevan and Noyemberian of the Republic of Armenia were subjected to artillery fire. It has been detected that considerable detachments of Azerbaijani infantry and heavy military machinery have been amassed just outside of the Taush region's border. The build-up of Azerbaijani troops in the Kubatly region of Azerbaijan has also been reported.

Renewed attacks by Azerbaijani troops on the Lachin humanitarian corridor from the south were intercepted by the Nagorno-Karabakh Self-Defence Forces. The Azerbaijani troops receded to their previous positions. Tensions remained high during the entire day of 6 April in the region of Kelbajar, where Azerbaijani attacks were continuing from the north. Rocket and artillery shelling from the direction of Fizuli into the Hadrut region were continuous.

On 7 April, the Azerbaijani forces began a new offensive in the direction of the Martuni regional centre. On that same day at 1520 hours, an Azerbaijani MIG 21 jet fighter released three bombs over the civilian-populated areas of Martuni, causing extensive casualties.

During the night of 7 April, large detachments of the Azerbaijani army staged a major offensive from their military base in the Aghdam region towards the centre of the Martuni region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Self-Defence Forces of Nagorno-Karabakh deterred the attack.

Defensive operations were carried out in the Martakert region's village of Nerkin Horatagh throughout the night. The very next day, the Azerbaijani offensive was put down.

On the night of 7 April, the border villages of the Hadrut region of Nagorno-Karabakh were again subjected to heavy shelling from the direction of Fizuli.

During the evening of 6 April and the night of 7 April, the villages of the Kapan region were shelled. The Taush region and the Vazashen village of the Ijevan region were also subjected to shelling. These regions lie within the State border of Armenia. A build-up of units of Azerbaijani infantry and heavy machinery have been detected near Taush on the Azerbaijani side.

On 8 April, the Nagorno-Karabakh Self-Defence Forces drove back a large-scale offensive that was staged from the north in the direction of the Martakert region's Metsshen and Maghavus villages. At the same time, the Hadrut border villages in the south were subjected to heavy shelling and artillery fire by Azerbaijani forces from the direction on Fizuli.

On 10 April, in flagrant violation of the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijani forces captured the villages of Srashen and Nerkin Hand in the Kapan region of the Republic of Armenia. Azerbaijani tanks entered the aforementioned villages and caused extensive material destruction and human casualties. Looting and pillaging were also reported. On 11 April, the Azerbaijani forces were driven out of those villages. At the same time, several other villages in the Kapan region were subjected to shelling. Extensive Azerbaijani detachments have been amassed along the borders of the regions of Sisian and Taush, with a view to staging renewed offensives in those regions. The regions of Sisian and Taush are also within Armenia's State borders.

During the evening of 12 April, the Hadrut regional centre of Nagorno-Karabakh was subjected to heavy artillery shelling from Azerbaijani military bases in Fizuli, causing significant destruction. Concurrently, the village of Tegh in the Goris region of Armenia was subjected to heavy shelling from the direction of Azerbaijani territory, as well as the village of Berkaber in the Ijevan region of the Republic of Armenia. Casualties were reported. Azerbaijani military forces mounted repeated attempts to cross over the border into the territory of the Kapan district of Armenia, as the incessant shelling of nearby villages continued.

During the night of 12 April, the Azerbaijani forces attempted to occupy the Hadrut region's Armenian-populated village of Hin Taghlar. Concurrently, a massive shelling campaign was staged in the direction of the town centre of Hadrut. Major casualties were inflicted. Azerbaijani troops retreated the next morning.

Also during the night of 12 April, the eastern parts of Martakert region and the area of the Lachin humanitarian corridor were subjected to repeated assaults. The renewed attacks on the humanitarian corridor came from the Azerbaijani military base at Kubatly. Azerbaijani forces again mounted attacks on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border areas.

Heavy shelling took place in the village of Movses in Armenia's Taush region in the north on 13 April. The Lachin humanitarian corridor was also shelled repeatedly from the south.

During the early morning hours of 14 April, the villages in the Kapan region of the Republic of Armenia were once again subjected to heavy shelling. The significant accumulation of Azerbaijani armed forces continues close to the Kapan regional limits. On the morning of 14 April, Azerbaijani forces launched a new ground offensive against Martuni in Nagorno-Karabakh. This attack was repelled by the Nagorno-Karabakh Self-Defence Forces. Casualties were reported.

During the afternoon of 14 April, an Azerbaijani army detachment that was stationed in Fizuli attempted to mount another offensive in the direction of the Nagorno-Karabakh village of Edilu, in the Hadrut region. This offensive was accompanied by missile attacks and was intensified by the use of armoured vehicles. By the end of the day, this offensive was stopped. Casualties were reported by the Nagorno-Karabakh side. The accumulation of significant amounts of Azerbaijani armed forces and heavy weaponry was detected in the Azerbaijani regions of Tovuz, Getabek and Akstafa. Due to a hazardous situation, Armenian farmers in the nearby bordering areas have stopped farming on the fields. On

14 April, the Armenian village of Barekamavan in the Noyemberian region of the Republic of Armenia was subjected to artillery shelling.

On 15 April, the regional centre of Hadrut of Nagorno-Karabakh was subjected to an Azerbaijani military offensive, with heavy shelling coming from Fizuli. Casualties have been reported.

Following several unfriendly statements by Turkish leaders in regard to the recent events in Nagorno-Karabakh, Turkey has undertaken some practical actions: According to "Radio of Russia" which referred to the Turkish newspaper Hurriet, the first shipment of weapons has been delivered from Turkey to Azerbaijan. Erdal Inonu warned that the capacity of the military provisions can be increased. Turkey has started transporting servicemen disguised in civilian clothes to Nakhichevan and has completely cut off the flow of humanitarian shipments destined for Armenia. In addition, beginning on 13 April, Turkish authorities created obstacles for 500 Armenian tourists, forcing them to alter their itinerary and to return home. The group was hindered in Kars and was prevented from boarding a train going back to Armenia. The tourists are still not reported to have arrived in Batumi by sea as expected. For now, there is still no information about the location of the group.

In the morning of 16 April, Armenian villages along the border areas of Nagorno-Karabakh's Hadrut region were subjected to heavy artillery fire. At the same time, the Azerbaijani military units launched an attack on the Armenian village of Hin Taglar in the same region. These attacks were launched from Azerbaijani military bases in the region of Djebrail. Accumulations of Azerbaijani military equipment continue to be detected on the border with Nagorno-Karabakh's Hadrut region.

Also on 16 April, the village of Nerkin Karmiraghpiur in the Taush region of the Republic of Armenia was subjected to severe artillery fire. There were wounded people among the civilian population.

In accordance with the latest initiative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the military commanders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Self-Defence Forces have issued a unilateral order to interrupt immediately the military activities along the line of confrontation with the Azerbaijani army. The authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh have expressed their readiness to give independent observers an opportunity to see with their own eyes the serious intentions of Nagorno-Karabakh to achieve a cease-fire.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative